

Message Text

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OC-06 USIA-06 COME-00 BIB-01 FAA-00 CG-00 DOTE-00
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BERN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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LONDON, OTTAWA, PARIS, BONN FOR TCO; GENEVA FOR TELATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL AORG ITU CA CM FR MO SP SW SZ UK

SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL

TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU).

1. DURING VISIT TO WASHINGTON, MINISTERIALDIRIGENT HEINRICH LUDWIG VENHAUS OF FEDREP BPM CALLED ON OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS POLICY (EB/TD) TO DISCUSS ITU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING TO TAKE PLACE IN GENEVA MAY 15-JUNE 2. VENHAUS WILL CHAIR ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL AND DISCUSSED WITH US SLATES OF CANDIDATES BEING PROPOSED FOR HEAD OF THE THREE ITU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL COMMITTEES FOR FORTHCOMING MEETING. ACCORDING TO VENHAUS EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING AMONG THEMSELVES AND WITH ITU SECRETARY GENERAL MILI AND HIS DEPUTY, BUTLER, HOW TO GET BALANCED REPRESENTATION BY FIVE REGIONS RECOGNIZED BY THE ITU FOR THESE COMMITTEES.

2. VENHAUS, REFLECTING FOREGOING PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS, PROPOSED FOLLOWING COMMITTEE OFFICER SLATE:

A. COMMITTEE 1 (FINANCE). CHAIRMAN: HERNANDEZ (MEXICO) (INCUMBENT). VICE CHAIRMAN: KATONA KIS (HUNGARY) (SRIRANGAN OF INDIA WAS VICE CHAIRMAN LAST YEAR).

B. COMMITTEE 2 (STAFF AND PENSIONS). CHAIRMAN: RABERG (SWEDEN) (UK OR SWITZERLAND WERE ALSO MENTIONED AS POSSIBILITIES). (MEYER OF UK CHAIRED LAST YEAR.) VICE CHAIRMAN: EL AOUD (MOROCCO) (INCUMBENT). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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C. COMMITTEE 3 (TECHNICAL COOPERATION). CHAIRMAN: JIPGUEP (CAMEROON) (O'NEILL OF U.S. CHAIRED LAST YEAR AND U.S. HAS HAD CHAIRMANSHIP AT LEAST SINCE 1962.) VICE CHAIRMAN: SRIRANGAN (INDIA) (JIPGUEP WAS VICE CHAIRMAN LAST YEAR).

3. IF THIS SLATE WERE AGREED UPON, U.S. WOULD NOT HAVE ANY COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIP (NOR ANY OTHER OFFICER POSITION) IN COUNCIL. WE POINTED OUT TO VENHAUS THAT LOSS OF U.S. CHAIRMANSHIP AND LACK OF REPRESENTATION FROM NORTH AMERICAN REGION, WAS TROUBLESOME. IN REPLY, VENHAUS SAID HE ASSUMED ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WOULD IN FACT BE REPRESENTED BY WESTERN EUROPEAN CHAIRMAN PROPOSED FOR COMMITTEE 2.

4. WE TOLD VENHAUS THAT DEPARTMENT HAD ALREADY HAD PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF SLATES AND ISSUES WITH MILI AND BUTLER IN GENEVA LAST JANUARY AND WAS CONTINUING THIS DISCUSSION THROUGH U.S. MISSION IN GENEVA. WE HAD JUST LEARNED FROM GENEVA THAT MILI HAD TOLD U.S. MISSION THAT HE WOULD "PERSONALLY WELCOME U.S.

RETAINING" CHAIRMAN FOR COMMITTEE 3 BUT HAD NOT DISCUSSED THIS WITH JIPGUEP, WHO WANTED THE CHAIRMANSHIP. POSITION MILI HAS BEEN TAKING UP TO THIS TIME IS THAT "MORE BALANCE" WAS NEEDED IN CHAIRMANSHIPS AND HE WAS PROPOSING TWO AFRICANS FOR BOTH COMMITTEES 2 AND 3. DEPSECEN BUTLER IS STILL PRESSING FOR JIPGUEP AS CHAIRMAN FOR COMMITTEE 3 AND WE ASSUME MILI, WHO IS TUNISIAN, WOULD ON "OFFICIAL" LEVEL ALSO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT JIPGUEP.

5. VENHAUS AGREED TO BE BACK IN TOUCH RE IDENTITY OF WEST EUROPEAN CANDIDATE (RABERG OR OTHER) FOR CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE 2, AND ON THAT OCCASION WHOLE SLATE COULD AGAIN BE DISCUSSED, INCLUDING CHAIRMANSHIP AND VICE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CHAIRMANSHIP OF ALL COMMITTEES. WE AGREED WITH VENHAUS ON NEED TO AGREE ON SLATES WELL BEFORE START OF COUNCIL MAY 15 SO AS TO AVOID CONTROVERSY ON THIS ISSUE AT MEETING.

6. DEPARTMENT IS NOT OPPOSED TO "BALANCED" CHAIRMANSHIPS AS SUGGESTED BY MILI, AND WE ARE NOT CAMPAIGNING FOR RETENTION OF COMMITTEE 3 CHAIRMANSHIP AS SUCH. BUT ESPECIALLY IN THE CASE OF COMMITTEE 3, WE

HAVE CONCERNS THAT OUTWEIGH "BALANCE". AS THE LARGEST CONTRIBUTOR TO THE UNDP (DOLS 115 MILLION FOR 1978 AND DOLS 130 MILLION REQUESTED FROM CONGRESS FOR 1979), WE HAVE TO BE SURE THAT ASSESSED BUDGETS ARE NOT ALSO USED FOR FUNDING TECHNICAL COOPERATION. WE COULD NOT OBTAIN THIS HIGH LEVEL OF FINANCING IF IT DEVELOPED THAT UN AGENCIES, SUCH AS ITU, APPROVED USE OF PART OF OUR ASSESSMENT FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PURPOSES. SOME COUNTRIES IN AFRICA HAVE PREVIOUSLY SOUGHT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FINANCED FROM ITU BUDGET. DESPITE RECENT INDICATIONS, IN CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN TELATT GENEVA AND MILI AND BUTLER, THAT TECHNICAL COOPERATION ISSUE WILL BE MODERATED THIS YEAR BY APPROVAL OF UNDP REGIONAL EXPERTS, WE HAVE NO ASSURANCE THAT THIS ISSUE WILL NOT BE REVIVED BY AFRICAN DELEGATES IF UNDP SITUATION IS NOT ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY TO THEM. THEREFORE, WHILE AGREEING TO ROTATION IN PRINCIPLE, WE FEEL STRONGLY

THAT COMMITTEE 3 SHOULD BE CHAIRED BY A DEVELOPED COUNTRY THAT IS ALSO A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTOR TO UNDP.

7. REQUEST EMBASSIES IN WESTERN EUROPEAN ACTION POSTS, OTTAWA, AND TOKYO SEEK VIEWS OF PROSPECTIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPRESENTATIVES TO ITU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL ON
SLATES AND RELATED ISSUES AND CONVEY FOREGOING U.S.
VIEWS. REQUEST TELEGRAPHIC REPORTS OF HOST GOVERNMENT
VIEWS TO DEPARTMENT, REPEATED TO GENEVA FOR TELATT,
AND MADRID. WE HOPE COUNTRY REPS WILL ALSO BE PREPARED
TO DISCUSS THESE ISSUES ON THE FRINGES OF THE AD HOC
MEETING ON ITU WORKING PROCEDURES IN MADRID, APRIL 3-7,
TO WHICH TELECOMMUNICATIONS ATTACHE, SIDNEY FRIEDLAND
OF MISSION GENEVA, WILL BE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE. COOPER

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Message Attributes

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